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FarmFacts

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The table in this publication outlines important production and market characteristics of all pea varieties registered in Canada as of 1989.

Many unregistered varieties have been tested throughout Western Canada and proven to be poorly adapted to our conditions. Two registered varieties (Finale and Lenca) are available only in Eastern Canada, because they are not adapted to Western Canada.

Pea types for specialty markets such as alaska, austrian winter pea, maple and marrowfat are generally lower yielding than Century. These types should be grown only under contract and should receive a premium over Century, since they are riskier to grow. Pedigreed seed of the maple type variety Whero will not be available until 1991.

Peas are sold either in the food market or the feed market. A good food variety has large, round and smooth seed of uniform seed coat color with cooking characteristics equal to or better than the standard variety Century.

Green cotyledon pea varieties are more difficult to grow compared to yellow cotyledon varieties because they are susceptible to bleaching. Overall, the currently available green cotyledon varieties are lower yielding.

Radley is a new green cotyledon variety that is adapted to Saskatchewan. Its acceptance by the food industry has not been determined.

Feed peas should be viewed as a different commodity than food peas. Cost of production for feed peas is lower than for food peas. The reasons are: cleaning is not as important; damaged seeds do not have to be removed; bagging is not necessary.

Variety selection criteria are also different for feed peas. Feed pea varieties may vary in seed shape, cotyledon and seed coat color. But, yield and seeding cost are the most important criteria for selecting a feed variety. Small seeds will reduce seeding cost.

Choose a high yielding variety.

Tara is the highest yielding variety for the southern part of the pea growing area in Saskatchewan. Victoria and Sirius are the highest yielding varieties for the northern pea growing area.

Do not choose a feed pea variety based on its protein content. Variation in protein content among varieties (at most 1%) is insignificant compared to the variability (up to 8%) caused by environmental factors such as effective nitrogen fixation, soil fertility, moisture availability and temperature.

In the table, variety names are followed by the year of registration. If the variety received interim registration, the year is followed by an asterisk (*). Yield, maturity and seed size comparisons are made using Century as the standard.

Vine lengths are classified as short (S), medium (M) or tall (T) relative to Century, which is tall. Actual length will depend on the growing conditions.

Pedigreed seed availability is noted by: A - available; L - limited; U - unavailable.

Seed distributors for SeCan varieties are listed in the Saskatchewan Seed Guide. For other varieties contact the company (Columbia Seed Co. Ltd., (403) 654-2158; Newfield Seeds Ltd., 862-4678; Seedtec Ltd., 522-7117; Woodstone Foods Ltd., 1-800-665-9704).

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DESCRIPTION OF REGISTERED PEA VARIETIES

VARIETY	YIELD	MATURITY	SEED SIZE	COTYLEDON COLOR	VINE LENGHT	SEED SUPPLY	SEED DISTRIBUTOR	OTHER
Bellevue (1986)	Good	Late	Medium	Yellow	T	L	SeCan members	Better adapted to southern pea growing area.
Century (1960)	Fair	Medium	Large	Yellow	T	A	SeCan members	Standard of cooking quality.
Express (1987)	Good	Early	Large	Yellow	S	L	Newfield Seeds Ltd.	Short vines, can make harvesting difficult in drought.
Finale (1980)	Poor	Early	Large	Green	S	U		Adapted to Maritime provinces.
Fortune (1986)	Good	Late	Medium	Yellow	M	L	Newfield Seeds Ltd.	Better adapted to southern pea growing area.
Lenca (1979)	Fair	Medium	Medium	Yellow	M	U		Adapted to Eastern Canada. Feed.
Miranda (1989*)	Fair	Early	V. large	Yellow	S	A	Columbia Seed	Short vines can make harvesting difficult.
Princess (1988)	Poor	Early	Medium	Green	S	A	CanMar Grain	Low yield potential because very early.
Radley (1989*)	Good	Early	Medium	Green	M	A	Columbia Seed	Semi-leafless, better adapted to higher moisture area. Feed.
Sirius (1989)	Good	Early	Medium	Yellow	T	A	Seedtec Ltd.	Seeds have irregular shape. Feed.
Stegholt (1989)	Good	Early	V. large	Yellow	S	A	Seedtec Ltd.	Feed.
Tara (1978)	Good	Medium	Medium	Yellow	T	A	SeCan members	Highest yielding variety. Feed.
Tipu (1985)	Fair	Medium	Large	Yellow	T	A	SeCan members	Semi-leafless Century, stands up better, seed cracking problem, otherwise same as Century.
Titan (1985)	Good	Medium	Large	Yellow	T	A	SeCan members	Could replace Century.
Trapper (1970)	Fair	Medium	Small	Yellow	T	A	SeCan members	Will be replaced by other varieties.
Triumph (1973)	Poor	Late	V. Large	Green	M	L	SeCan members	Too late for Saskatchewan.
Victoria (1984)	Good	Early	Medium	Yellow	M	A	Newfield Seeds Ltd.	Will replace Trapper.
Whero (1989)	Poor	Late	Medium	Yellow	T	U		Colored seed coat for pigeon feed.
Yellowhead (1989)	Good	Late	Large	Yellow	T	L	Woodstone Foods Ltd.	For food fiber extraction.